UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(1)/L.15
8 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Organization to house the Global Mechanism and agreement on its modalities

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties (COP), in accordance with article 21, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, shall:

(a) identify, at its first ordinary session an organization to house the Global Mechanism established under article 21, paragraph 4, of the Convention;

(b) agree with the organization it has identified upon the modalities for the Global Mechanism; and

(c) make, at its first session, appropriate arrangements with the organization it has identified to house the Global Mechanism for the administrative operations of such Mechanism, drawing to the extent possible on existing budgetary and human resources,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or

Desertification, Particularly in Africa (INCD) regarding the functions of the Global Mechanism, and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it, as reflected in Appendix I of document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Committee's decision 10/3, taken at the first part of its tenth session, with the amendment contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add.1,

Recalling decision 10/18 of the INCD, taken at its resumed tenth session, which, inter alia:

(a) requests the COP at its first session to consider the offers of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including any suggestions they deem necessary, and to take appropriate action on the matters related to the selection of an institution to house the Global Mechanism; and

(b) requests the secretariat, in consultation with IFAD and UNDP, to develop proposals on administrative and operational modalities of the Global Mechanism for consideration and adoption by the COP at its first session,

Noting with appreciation the revised offer of IFAD to house the Global Mechanism, contained in Appendix II of document ICCD/COP(1)/5, as supplemented by document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.3, prepared in response to operative paragraph 1 of INCD decision 10/18,

Also noting with appreciation the revised offer of UNDP to house the Global Mechanism, contained in Appendix III of document ICCD/COP(1)/5, as supplemented by document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.2, prepared in response to operative paragraph 1 of INCD decision 10/18,

Noting further document ICCD/COP(1)/5/Add.2/Rev.1, which contains proposals developed by the secretariat, in consultation with IFAD and UNDP regarding the administrative and operational modalities of the Global Mechanism,

1. Decides to select [IFAD] [UNDP] to house the Global Mechanism on the basis of criteria agreed on in Section B of the Annex to INCD decision 10/3;

2. Decides also that the Global Mechanism, in carrying out its mandate, under the authority and guidance of the COP, should perform the functions described in the annex to this decision;

3. Requests the secretariat, in consultation with the organization to house the Global Mechanism, as well as the other two collaborating institutions referred to in decision ..., to develop a memorandum of understanding between the COP and appropriate body or organization for consideration and adoption at the second session of the COP;

4. Requests also the secretariat and the organization housing the Global Mechanism, in consultation with the two other collaborating institutions, in developing the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 3 above, to take fully into account document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and other related documents, including document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, to address, inter alia, the following:

(a) the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the housing organization;

(b) the measures to be taken to assure full accountability and full reporting to the COP;

(c) the field office support available for Global Mechanism activities;

(d) the administrative infrastructure available to support the Global Mechanism; and

(e) arrangements for the handling of resources made available for Global Mechanism functioning and activities;

5. Further requests the organization housing the Global Mechanism and the secretariat to work out appropriate arrangements for liaison and cooperation between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism in order to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of Convention implementation in accordance with their respective roles in implementation;

6. Invites relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks, as well as interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism;

7. Urges Governments and all interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make promptly the voluntary contributions necessary to ensure that the Global Mechanism can begin operating on 1 January 1998 on the basis of Section A of Appendix I of document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and continue effective operations on the basis of the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 3 above after its adoption by the second session of the COP;

8. Reiterates that, in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention, the COP shall, at its third ordinary session, review the policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism and, on the basis of this review, shall consider and take appropriate action.

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(1)/L.16
8 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Having examined decision 10/18 of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (INCD), taken at its resumed tenth session, which, inter alia, invites the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank to consult on and develop a proposal on the possible collaborative institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism for submission to, consideration by and appropriate action by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its first session,

Welcoming, as an important element in the successful functioning of the Global Mechanism, the agreement of IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank on collaborative institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism, as reflected in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, annexed to this decision,

1. Decides that this agreement shall serve as the initial basis for collaborative institutional arrangements in support of the Global Mechanism by the three organizations;

2. Decides also that, in carrying out the functions of the Global Mechanism, in accordance with its decision ..., the organization to house the Global Mechanism shall, as the lead organization, fully cooperate with the other two institutions that entered into the collaborative institutional arrangements described in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1;

3. Urges the three institutions concerned to proceed with the arrangements proposed in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, including the establishment of a facilitation committee, and requests the three institutions to actively pursue and develop further those arrangements and report to the second session of the COP;

4. Invites relevant institutions, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), regional and subregional organizations and regional development banks, as well as interested non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, to actively support the activities of the Global Mechanism, as contemplated in paragraph 5 of the annex to document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1 and, in this connection, to establish and/or strengthen programmes to combat desertification in affected developing countries;

5. Requests the organization housing the Global Mechanism to report to the second session of the COP on modalities regarding collaboration between itself and the NGO community, as well as collaboration with other interested organizations, including the private sector.

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(1)/L.17
8 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Draft report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. JABBARI (Islamic Republic of Iran)

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE	1 - 11	
	A. Opening of the session	1	
	B. Election of the President	2 - 3	
	C. Opening statements	4 - 11	
II.	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS	12 - 26	
	A. Adoption of the rules of procedure	12	
	B. Adoption of the agenda	13	
	C. Election of officers other than the President	14 - 17	
	D. Organization of work, including the establishment of a Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Science and Technology	18 - 21	
	E. Admission of organizations as observers	22 - 26	
	F. Attendance*		
	G. Documentation*		

* To be completed following the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
III.	HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT*		
IV.	DIALOGUE ON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS*		
V.	DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES .	27 - 34	
A.	Decisions taken directly in Plenary	27 - 34	
	Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location	27 - 34	
B.	Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole*		
C.	Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology*		
ANNEX:	Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties*		

I. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

A. Opening of the session

1. The first session of the Conference of the Parties, convened pursuant to article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, was opened at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, on 30 September 1997 by Mr. Hama Araba Diallo, Executive Secretary, in his capacity as head of the interim secretariat. Welcoming all participants to the Conference, he thanked the Government and people of Italy, and the authorities and citizens of Rome, for their generosity in hosting the Conference as well as FAO for having made it possible to hold the First Conference of the Parties at its headquarters.

B. Election of the President

2. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September, the Conference elected H.E. Mr. Lamberto Dini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, as President by acclamation.

3. At the same meeting, the President made a welcoming statement.

C. Opening statements

4. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September, a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was conveyed to the Conference by Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

5. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD) made a statement.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Director-General of FAO, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

7. At the same meeting, statements were delivered on behalf of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

8. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat for the Convention to Combat Desertification made a statement.

9. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference heard an address by H.E. Dr. Carlos Lemos Simmonds, Vice-President of Colombia.

10. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity made a statement.

11. At its 5th meeting, on 3 October, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change made a statement.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Adoption of the rules of procedure

12. At its 1st meeting, on 30 September, the Conference decided to adopt the rules of procedure attached to INCD decision 10/6 (see A/52/82, appendix II), with the exception of paragraph 1 of rule 6, paragraph 1 of rule 22, rule 31, and paragraph 1 of rule 47, and to apply provisionally rules 22 and 31 in relation to the size of the Bureau. (For subsequent consideration of the rules of procedure, see chap. V, sect. B.)

B. Adoption of the agenda

13. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Conference adopted its agenda as contained in document ICCD/COP(1)/1 and Corr.1.

C. Election of officers other than the President

14. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference elected Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El-Ghaouth (Mauritania) as Vice-President of the Conference.

15. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 2 October, the President read out the following statement:

> "The Conference of the Parties noted that the Eastern European Group currently had only one Party to the Convention and it therefore decided that it would be appropriate not to leave the second Bureau seat, to which that regional group was entitled, empty at the present session, but rather to fill it.
>
> "This COP decision was made on the understanding that the action was exceptional and that the seat would revert to the Eastern European Group at the second session of the COP.
>
> "This decision of the COP does not in any way prejudice the interest of any Group in future meetings of the COP."

16. The Conference then elected by acclamation the following officers to serve on its Bureau:

Vice-Presidents:

Ms. Maria Julia Alsogaray (Argentina)

Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

Mr. Miguel Angel Araujo Padilla (El Salvador)

Mr. Andri Bisaz (Switzerland)

Mr. Abdul Hameed Al-Monajed (Syrian Arab Republic)

Mr. Harold Acemah (Uganda)

Mr. Katinda Kamando (United Republic of Tanzania)

Vice-President-cum-Rapporteur:

Mr. Mohammad Reza H.K. Jabbari (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology:

Mr. Ricardo Sanchez-Sosa (Cuba)

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Benin (on behalf of the African States Group), Belgium (on behalf of the Western European and Other States Group), Armenia (on behalf of the Eastern European States Group), the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Asian States Group) and Honduras (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States Group).

D. Organization of work, including the establishment of a Committee of the Whole and the Committee on Science and Technology

18. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference approved the proposed organization of work for the session contained in document ICCD/COP(1)1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

Establishment of the Committee of the Whole

19. At the same meeting, the Conference decided to establish a Committee of the Whole to negotiate issues pending from the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCD), as well as other substantive issues, including the draft decisions contained in documents A/AC.241/L.42 and L.43.

20. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the President, the Conference designated Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El-Ghaouth (Mauritania) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole.

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

21. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference adopted the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology set forth in INCD decision 9/10 (see annex ___, decision I/ ___).

E. Admission of organizations as observers

Observer status for intergovernmental organizations

22. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 30 September, the Conference adopted the decision on the participation of intergovernmental organizations referred to

in the recommendations contained in INCD decision 10/12 (see A/52/82, appendix II), as modified in document INCD/COP(1)2/Corr.1 (see annex ___, decision I/1).

23. At the same meeting, the representative of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development made a statement.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

25. At the same meeting, the Executive Secretary of the interim secretariat made a statement.

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

26. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 September, the Conference decided to adopt the decision on accreditation of the non-governmental organizations referred to in the recommendation contained in INCD decision 10/12, as modified in documents ICCD/COP(1)2/Corr.1 and 8 (see annex ___, decision I/1).

F. Attendance

[To be completed]

G. Documentation

[To be completed]

III. HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

[To be completed]

IV. DIALOGUE ON BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

[To be completed]

V. DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

A. Decisions taken directly in the Plenary

Designation of a Permanent Secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location

27. At its 2nd meeting, on 30 September, the Conference began its consideration of the item and heard presentations by Mr. Clifford Lincoln, Member of Parliament of Canada, by Mr. Ramon Luis Valcarcel, President of the Region of Murcia, Spain, and by Mr. Wieghard Haerdtl, State Secretary of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany and Mrs. Baerbel Dieckmann, Lord Mayor of Bonn.

28. At its 4th meeting, on 3 October, the Conference heard a statement by the President.

29. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the contact group made a statement in explanation of the polling procedures for the selection of one of the three candidates to host the Permanent Secretariat.

30. At the same meeting, the Conference then conducted the poll by secret ballot.

31. At the same meeting, having been informed of the results of the secret ballot, the President proposed to the Conference that it take a consensus decision that the Permanent Secretariat be located in the City of Bonn, Germany.

32. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted the proposal of the President by consensus (see annex ___, decision I/2).

33. At the same meeting, the President made a statement.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Canada and Spain.

[Other decisions to be included]

B. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee of the Whole

[To be completed]

C. Decisions taken on the recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology

[To be completed]

ANNEX

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties

[The final texts of the decisions, as adopted by the Conference, to be included.]

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(1)/L.18
10 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September - 10 October 1997
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Review of the Implementation of the Convention

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), of the Convention to Combat Desertification,

Recalling also article 24 of the Convention relating to the Committee on Science and Technology and article 26 relating to the Communication of Information,

1. Decides to consider, at its third session, whether there is a need to establish additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist it in its task of regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention,

2. Decides also to transmit the draft decision contained in document A/AC.241/L.42 to its third session for consideration.

- - - - -

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(1)/L.19
10 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
Rome, 29 September-10 October 1997
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Regional annexes

Draft decision proposed by the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the outcome of the regional CCD Conferences, such as the adoption of the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Action Programme,

Emphasizing the fact that these initiatives are in clear response to the mandate of the Convention and to the requests contained in Agenda 21,

Recognizing that among the objectives of regional action programmes is the need to integrate the work that international agencies carry out, so as to facilitate the work at the national level by governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Recalling that another main objective of regional action programmes is to develop and strengthen regional coordinating mechanism, established in the regional annexes to the Convention,

Decides

(a) To welcome the agreements made by the Parties of Regional Implementation Annexes and to encourage them to strengthen and widen their national and regional efforts in support of the implementation of the Convention;

(b) To welcome also the adoption by the countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region of the Regional Action Programme and encourages the other regions to accelerate the process of adoption of the regional action programmes;

(c) To encourage those countries which have still not done so to ratify or accede to the Convention and to engage in regional processes;

(d) To request the Executive Secretary to facilitate assistance in accordance with the provisions of article 23 (2) of the Convention, for the effective and efficient functioning of regional action programmes;

(e) To encourage the regions having Implementation Annexes to expand their efforts to collaborate and exchange experiences with other regions of the Convention in order to improve CCD interregional cooperation.

UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
LIMITED

ICCD/COP(1)/L.20
10 October 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
First session
29 September-10 October 1997
Agenda item 4

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Inclusion of activities of non-governmental organizations within the official programme of work

Argentina: draft decision

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the spirit of partnership set out in the third principle of the Convention to Combat Desertification, which states that:

"the Parties should develop, in a spirit of partnership, cooperation among all levels of government, communities, non-governmental organizations and landholders to establish a better understanding of the nature and value of land and scarce water resources in affected areas to work towards their sustainable use",

Recalling that this principle is carried forward in the action focused sections of the Convention dealing with participation in planning and decision-making, funding, information and technology and capacity building, education and public awareness,

Noting that Article 10 of the Convention stipulates that National Action Programmes shall provide for effective participation of non-governmental organizations and local populations in all stages of the planning process and at all levels of decision-making

Recognizing that in Article 21.1 (c) it is stipulated that "the Conference of the Parties shall consider for adoption, inter alia, approaches and policies that facilitate, as appropriate, mechanisms such as national

desertification funds, including those involving the participation of non-governmental organizations, to channel financial resources rapidly and efficiently to the local level in affected developing country Parties",

Noting also that in Articles 16 (Information) and 18 (Technology) it is recognized that NGOs have access to important information; that they have built up relevant expertise and that they have developed channels to reach out to the target groups so that governments have agreed that they will engage in partnerships with NGOs to make full use of their expertise in the areas of information dissemination (Article 16) and the promotion of appropriate technology (Article 18.1), in particular technology that is based on traditional and local knowledge (Article 18.2 (a)),

Recognizing also that NGOs will have a major role in informing people at the community level and mobilizing community action. Therefore capacity building, education and public awareness are other areas in which partnership arrangements between governments and NGOs are essential,

1. Requests that additional open dialogue sessions organized by NGOs occur within the official programme of work of future sessions of the Conference of the Parties and that the Secretariat make all efforts to facilitate inclusion of at least two half-day NGO sessions within the official programme of work;

2. Requests also that NGOs give further consideration to institutional mechanisms for reinforcing partnerships, north-south partnerships, relationships with multilateral agencies, research institutions and funding mechanisms, and partnerships at the community level, which draw on local knowledge and experience, gender issues in partnership building and other critical issues in the implementation of the CCD.